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| APPLICATION NO.  | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/633,452   | 08/01/2003  | George Logue JR.     | 120461-120461       | 4680             |
| 30330  | 7590        | 11/21/2006           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| MCQUAIDE BLASKO<br>811 UNIVERSITY DRIVE<br>STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801 |             |                      | BOCHNA, DAVID       |                  |
|  |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|  |             |                      | 3679                |                  |
| DATE MAILED: 11/21/2006  |             |                      |                     |                  |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                                      |                                      |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>10/633,452 | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>LOGUE, GEORGE |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>David E. Bochna   | <b>Art Unit</b><br>3679              |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-14, 17 and 20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15, 16, 18 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Claims 1-14, 17 and 20 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected apparatus, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 9/11/06. Applicant elected claims 15-20 in the 9/11/06 response. However, claims 17 and 20 depend from non elected claim 1, so they have also been restricted.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
3. Claims 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 17 and 20 are indefinite because they depend from two different independent claims. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 15-16, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Temple et al. '190.

In regard to claims 15 and 18, Temple et al. discloses a method of installing an

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underground vault 10 containing one or more pipe or conduit connections 12, 16, the method comprising:

placing a vault 10 in an excavated area, the vault designed to be installed underground and having one or more apertures 12 for receiving a pipe or conduit;

installing a pipe 16 or conduit in the one or more apertures thereby defining a roughly annular clearance gap between the exterior of the pipe or conduit and the aperture;

placing a collar 56 around the pipe or conduit in a position to prevent backfill from entering the vault through the clearance gap;

backfilling around the pipe or conduit and vault; and

repeating steps a through d for multiple vaults and

sealing the clearance gap via access from the inside the vault (using 70 and jack 29).

In regard to claims 16 and 19, the vault 10 is a catch basin.

6. Claims 15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Harrison.

In regard to claims 15 and 18, Harrison discloses a method of installing an underground vault 14 containing one or more pipe or conduit connections 13, the method comprising:

placing a vault 14 in an excavated area, the vault designed to be installed underground and having one or more apertures 13 for receiving a pipe or conduit;

installing a pipe or conduit 10 in the one or more apertures thereby defining a roughly annular clearance gap between the exterior of the pipe or conduit and the aperture;

placing a collar 17 around the pipe or conduit in a position to prevent backfill from entering the vault through the clearance gap;

backfilling 15 around the pipe or conduit and vault; and

repeating steps a through d for multiple vaults and  
sealing the clearance gap via access from the inside the vault (see fig. 3, using 28-29).

*Conclusion*

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Meyers, Gavin, Atanasoski et al., Ditcher et al. and Proctor, all disclose similar couplings common in the art.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. Bochna whose telephone number is (571) 272-7078. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30 Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



David E. Bochna  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3679